REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 10-12.

Claims 1, 3, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,491 B2). In response, Applicants amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 4, except for the final phase sequence of isotropic liquid crystal phase - cholesteric phase - smectic A phase - chiral smectic C phase, and also the feature of claim 5, namely, rubbing each of the alignment films formed on the two substrates in the same direction, and respectfully traverse the rejection based on this amendment.

Hasegawa teaches away from performing a rubbing treatment of the alignment films in the same direction. FIGs. 1a, 4-5, 7-8 and 10 and col. 6, ln. 66 to col. 7, ln. 5 of Hasegawa show the alignment treatment direction 54 as occurring in opposite directions. Since Hasegawa does not teach performing a rubbing treatment in the same direction, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 1 and 3.

With respect to independent claim 8, Applicants amended the claim to further clarify that the control voltage for controlling the state of the switching elements and the DC voltage applied to the data bus lines are at an equal potential. Since Hasegawa fails to disclose or suggest a manufacturing method that includes this feature, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa, in view of Miura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,703,993 B2). Applicants traverse the rejection for the reason recited above.

Miura is merely cited by the Examiner as disclosing a backlight driven by a field-sequential color scheme, with data-writing and data-erasure scanning voltages. Miura fails to disclose the added features recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the §103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa, in view of Wingen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,605,323 B1). Since this claim is cancelled, the rejection is moot. Moreover, Applicants submit that Wingen does not overcome the deficiencies of Hasegawa for the reasons recited above, namely the addition of claim 5 into claim 1.

Claims 1 and 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,610 B1). In response, Applicants amended independent claim 1 as discussed above, and traversed the rejection because Jones fails to disclose or suggest the phase sequences now recited in amended claim 1.

The Examiner notes on page 7, second paragraph of the Office Action that Jones teaches a liquid crystal showing a phase sequence of isotropic-cholesteric - smectic A - chiral smectic C. However, amended claim 1 now defines the phase sequence as being either isotropic liquid phase - cholesteric phase - chiral smectic C phase or isotropic liquid phase - chiral nematic phase - chiral smectic C phase. Since Jones fails to disclose or suggest these

phase sequences, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 1 and 3-6 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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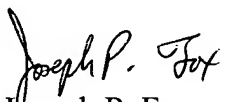
By: 
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